

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1 and 15-33 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 2-14 and 32 have been cancelled. New claim 34 has been added.

Claims 29-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 29-31 have been amended to recite a "... computer readable recording medium ..."

Claims 1, 15-31 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe et al. in view of Panian. It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

said slave apparatus comprising:

a judging unit of **transmitting to said master device a notification code of notifying a presently set-up communication mode**, and then judging whether a command received from said master device in response to said notification code corresponds to said presently set-up own communication mode or not ...

... when said command is not received within said predetermined time, connection to said master device is electrically released temporarily and then said connection is restored. (Emphasis added).

Applicant's exemplary embodiment establishes the communication between a slave apparatus (e.g. digital camera 110) and a master device which has a plurality of communication modes (e.g. mass storage class such as printer B730, imaging class such as printer B740, and both of the classes such as PC 720) automatically by the slave apparatus selecting a suitable communication mode according to the kinds of master devices, without a user's complicated operation (Page 4, lines 4-10). That is, in Applicant's exemplary embodiment, the communication mode is selected by the slave apparatus-side, not by the master apparatus-side. Thus, claim 1 recites "... a slave apparatus comprising ... a judging unit of **transmitting to said master device a**

notification code of notifying a presently set-up communication mode ..."
(Emphasis added).

Watanabe discloses an image communication system for establishing communication among an imaging device/digital camera 10 with a support apparatus/cradle 100, communication terminal/mobile telephone 300 and host communication unit/personal computer 90. The digital camera 10 has two selectable communication modes. In the first mode, the digital camera 10 (slave) is capable of communicating with personal computer 90 (master) through the cradle 100. In the second mode, the digital camera 10 (slave) is capable of acting as a communication intervening unit between the mobile telephone 300 and the personal computer 90 (master) through the cradle 90 (Col. 1, lines 39-60).

In the first mode, the digital camera 10 is capable of sending its own communication ID and the image files stored in the mounted memory card 40 (Col. 2, line 19 and Col. 9, lines 31-34 and 45-49). The first mode includes two sub-modes. The sub-modes include a "file transmission mode" and a "shooting mode". In both sub-modes, the personal computer 90 (master) issues to the digital camera 10 (slave) a command to acquire the communication ID and then acquires it from the digital camera 10. If the acquired ID has been registered with the personal computer 90, the personal computer 90 (master) issues to the digital camera 10 (slave) "an image transmission command" (for "file transmission mode") or "a command for activating the shooting function of the digital camera 10" (for "shooting mode") (col. 9, lines 36-67 and lines 50-52).

That is, in the first mode of Watanabe, the communication between the digital camera 10 (corresponding to the slave apparatus of claim 1) and the personal computer 90 (corresponding to the master device of claim 1) is established by digital camera 10 executing the commands issued from the personal computer 90. That is, the communication mode is selected by (the command issued from) the master device-side, not by the slave apparatus side.

In the second mode of Watanabe, the Office Action concludes that the digital camera 10 is capable of issuing its own communication mode to the personal computer 30. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's conclusion. There is no

support in the document that the second mode of Watanabe discloses that the digital camera 10 is capable of issuing its own communication mode to the personal computer 30. (Page 3, lines 17-18, citing col. 4, lines 46-47 of Watanabe). Col. 4, lines 46-47 only recite that the camera 10 is provided with a connector 44. Further, Watanabe discloses that in the second mode, the computer 90 (master) accesses the camera 10 and activates the transmitting receiving device 52 to establish communication (col. 9, lines 64-67). That is, Watanabe does not disclose that the digital camera 10 is capable of issuing its own communication mode to the personal computer 30. Accordingly, Watanabe does not disclose or suggest "... a slave apparatus comprising ... a judging unit of **transmitting to said master device a notification code of notifying a presently set-up communication mode ...**" (Emphasis added).

Panian also does not disclose or suggest "... a slave apparatus comprising ... a judging unit of **transmitting to said master device a notification code of notifying a presently set-up communication mode ...**" (Emphasis added). Rather, Panian is cited for its teaching of waiting and scanning for activity from a connecting device and to move to other modes of communication.

Panian discloses the method of sensing the mobile terminals in which the mobile terminal/mobile communication device 10 is capable of acting on the default mode or the communication mode. Further, when switching from the communication mode to the default mode, the mobile communication device 10 monitors or polls the signals such as DTR, RTS, CTS from respective ports or the comment from the host apparatus. If no signal is detected, the mobile communication device 10 judges the connection to the host apparatus is cut out and switches to the default mode (Figs. 4A and 4B, Col. 7, line 45 to Col. 8, line 2). The Office Action concludes "If there is no command from DTR the flow will go to 210 in which case the DTR is inactive, meaning the DTR port as seen in Fig. 2A is electrically released or unconnected." (page 4, lines 16-18 of the Official Action), The Applicant, however, respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's conclusion. There is no support in the document of this conclusion. Thus, Panian does not disclose or suggest "... when said command is not received within said predetermined time, connection to said master device is electrically released temporarily and then said connection is restored," as recited in claim 1.

Thus, claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. Claims 17-25 and 33 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 17-35 are also allowable over the art of record.

Claims 15-16 and 26-28, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claims 15-16 and 26-28 also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Claims 29-31 depend from claims 26-28, respectively. Accordingly, claims 29-31 are also allowable over the art of record.

New claim 32 has been added. Basis for new claim 32 may be found, for example, in the originally filed application at claim 1 and page 26, lines 9-15. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this Application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Allan Ratner, Reg. No. 19,717
Attorney for Applicant

AR/dmw

Dated: January 30, 2009

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

SO_367414